



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

January 2005



FY05 and FY06 Budgets: It looks pretty certain that in FY05 we will get a \$75k increase in Vital Signs funding (not the originally scheduled \$774k, but better than nothing), plus we will get the scheduled \$81k in Water Resources Division funding. These funds bump our base funding to \$306k, which gives us some FY05 operating room. In addition, it looks likely that we will get full funding in FY06. (However, the money will likely come out of the NRPP-Resource Management funding source. Ouch!).

Integration of I&M, Fire Effects, and EPMT Vegetation Monitoring: On January 20, Dan Licht—along with Cody Wienk of the Fire Effects Monitoring Program and Chad Prosser of the NGP EPMT—participated in a conference call with WASO and MWRO staff in regards to integrating the three programs for purposes of vegetation monitoring. The call was a “scoping” call to see if there were any issues, obstacles, or other considerations to be aware of before developing an integrated approach. WASO and the MWRO were supportive. The next step is to develop a detailed integration plan.

Voucher Specimens: About a year ago we developed an agreement with the Bell Museum at the U. of Minnesota (through the CESU) to prepare and curate vertebrate specimens from parks in the Northern Great Plains I&M Network. In August of 2003 we delivered to the Bell the biological specimens collected from our inventories (primarily mammal and fish specimens) as well as some other specimens parks had but did not want to curate on site. At that time each park was given a list of the specimens that were delivered to the Bell. Please ensure that your park has completed the necessary paperwork (accession paperwork?). Once the Bell prepares and catalogs the specimens we will get that information to the parks.

We're #1: This past summer an email went out to all parks in the NPS in regards to collecting samples of eumycetozoon samples, a.k.a. slime molds. Mike Bynum of the I&M Program spent a day at Badlands NP and Mt. Rushmore NM collecting specimens and forwarding them to the science lab in North Carolina. Here's the email responses he got for his effort:

Mike. I must say that this set of samples is as well collected and well documented as any we've ever received from someone else who has collected for us! You did a fantastic job!

Dr. Steven L. Stephenson, Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas

Mike. You and Dan should be additionally praised in that your region (including Dan Foster at WICA) has had the only activity thus far with this project. I have numerous other parks interested in being involved, but they have been slow to get started. Kudos to the Black Hills and prairie folk!

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